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JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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French-Saudi oil agreement signed

King Khaled wants France at Geneva meet

(YADH, Jan. 24 (Agencies) — King Khaled of Saudi Arabia today said he wanted France to take part in the Geneva Middle-East Peace Conference resumes.

He said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should have the seat of its own, independent of any other Arab delegation.

He described the PLO in terms of the 1974 Arab summit in Beirut as "the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people".

The king was interviewed by France-Press during an official visit by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

He said France should persuade European partners that a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict was in their own interests.

Other European nations, he said, "have been won over to the just cause of the Palestinians but dare not say so in public."

France could play "an eminent role" in the search for a solution, King Khaled said, adding that he is sure France would "give its full support" to the Palestinians.

King Khaled said the Palestinians themselves should decide what form any future ties with Jordan should take.

Asked if Saudi Arabia would recognise the existence of Israel, he said that before he could reply, Israel should be asked if it would withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967.

The withdrawal should include Jerusalem, which should return to Arab sovereignty, King Khaled said.

OIL AGREEMENT

France today signed a three-year contract for 36 million tonnes of Saudi oil as President Giscard d'Estaing neared the end of his four-day state visit.

The deal was signed here by Saudi Arabia and the Compagnie Française de Pétrole while President Giscard d'Estaing visited Saudi Arabia's technical University for Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran, an oil city on the Gulf coast.

The accord provides France with oil at the price fixed last month when Saudi Arabia demanded a five per cent increase which was only half the rise decided by most of its oil-exporting partners. But the price will rise in accordance with future official increases.

The deal extends a similar three-year contract with expired at the end of last year. It covers roughly one-third of France's oil purchases from Saudi Arabia.

President Giscard d'Estaing, who ends his visit tomorrow, today described Saudi Arabia as "one of the great partners of the modern world."

President Giscard d'Estaing, addressing students at Dhahran in English, called for a redistribution of the world's wealth and a new world economic order based on dialogue rather than violence.

France and Saudi Arabia were both keen to promote the north-south dialogue between the industrial world and developing nations, he said.

King Khaled, asked in the interview about the oil-price difference with Iran, said "Iran is a brother country. We feel much esteem and consideration for the Shah."

"Marginal and fortuitous problems" should have no repercussions on Saudi-Iranian friendship, he added.

King Hussein pledges unvarying support for Riyadh summit resolutions

AMMAN (JNA). — H.M. King Hussein Sunday asserted Jordan's unchanging support for the resolutions of the six-sided Arab summit conference in Riyadh which affirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He said that Jordan was for the right of self-determination for the people of Palestine and that "Jordan's relationship with the Palestinian state" was not only a historical, geographic and strategic one but also a reality and a matter of destiny.

In an exclusive interview published Sunday by the Egyptian October magazine, the King said that Jordanian government was in constant contact with the United States and other friendly countries in the service of Arab causes, to expound Arab attitudes and defend Arab rights.

King Hussein said that the confrontation states were shouldering a formidable national burden and therefore it was only natural that all Arab states should rush to help those states in all fields.

On his latest talks with President Anwar Sadat, King Hussein said the talks led to important and results in the sphere of Arab coordination and international action in the coming phase.

He emphasized that reinforcing the flanks of the two fronts facing the one enemy was inevitable if the Arabs are to face the requirements of action towards a just peace and to be prepared for all eventualities should peace efforts fail.

Israeli lawyers charge Arab prisoners subjected to brutality, some killed

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (AFP). — Arab prisoners in Israeli jails have died as a result of brutality from guards, a member of the Israeli Democratic Union of Lawyers has charged.

The union, which has about 100 attorneys as members, called on the authorities last night to improve the conditions of detention of Arab detainees.

Union representatives said at a press conference here that Arab prisoners on average had fewer beds, mattresses and blankets than Jewish detainees. Their food was bad and the medical and dental care they received inadequate, the lawyers said.

Jerusalem lawyer Lea Tzemer charged that a number of prisoners had been subjected to brutal treatment from the guards and that in certain cases death had resulted.

The press conference came as a hunger strike by Arabs convicted of terrorist acts and jailed in Ashkelon prison entered its eighth week. The prisoners are refusing solid food and being fed liquids when they faint.

The hunger strike by some 400 inmates is aimed at obtaining prisoner-of-war status and improved conditions of detention.

An Israeli Arab lawyer, Mr. Ali Rafah had said yesterday that Israeli authorities were trying to break the hunger strike by Arab prisoners at the Ashkelon jail by transferring them elsewhere.

Mr. Rafah said the strike had spread to other prisons at Kfar Yona, Ramleh and Nabulus where some of the inmates from Ashkelon had been transferred. Israeli prison authorities did not comment.

Smith: British proposals spell capitulation to Africans

SALISBURY, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — Rhodesia today rejected out of hand Britain's latest proposals for settling the 11-year old constitutional dispute on the grounds that this would inevitably lead to the imposition of a Marxist-indoctrinated minority government.

In a 45-minute radio and television address to the nation, Premier Ian Smith said he and his government remained dedicated to the Anglo-American plan he formally accepted in September, which he was prepared to implement.

The new British proposals were a radical departure from former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's package and would result in immediate black rule imposed from outside, Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Smith mounted a detailed attack on the British plan, which he rejected during a 45-minute meeting here today with British negotiator Ivor Richard.

He said the proposed council of ministers would be two-thirds black and with full executive and legislative authority in most spheres.

Mr. Smith said white representation on the council would only be a third, of which only one-sixth would be elected representatives of his government.

"To put it in a nutshell, the British government wish to impose on us an interim government recommended by the frontline, presidents, working in collusion with the terrorist-orientated Patriotic Front," he said.

"If it misfires and consequently things become ugly in Rhodesia, the British representative would retreat to Britain and leave the rest of us to sort things out to the best of our ability", Mr. Smith said.

British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland promptly issued a "last appeal" to Premier Smith to think again on what he described as a "desperate and tragic decision" which could have calamitous consequences for Southern Africa.

British Envoy Ivor Richard said Mr. Smith's rejection was "tragic and fateful" and said he saw no

point in reconvening the Geneva conference "just to sit and look at each other."

The rejection came as no surprise to Tanzania. A spokesman for President Julius Nyerere said Britain should now threaten Mr. Smith as a "rebel".

Mr. Smith said it was clear that Rhodesia would now only be liberated "through armed struggle."

There was no official comment from South Africa although political sources said the decision has faced Pretoria with a difficult choice -- whether to come out in open support for Rhodesia's 260,000 whites or turn its back on them and anger the whites at home.

Mr. Richard told a press conference here following his meeting

with Mr. Smith that the British plan had been worked out as a basis for negotiation but Mr. Smith would not accept them even as a basis for talks.

Mr. Richard said, adding: "He now bears a heavy responsibility for what may happen."

He predicted that the guerrilla war would go on, United Nations sanctions continue and white and black Rhodesians suffer.

Mr. Richard later left here for Johannesburg.

In Washington Senator Dick Clark, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa, today called for additional economic and political pressure on the Ian Smith government following the breakdown of the talks.

But Nabatiyeh more hospitable

General strike in East Beirut greets Arab troops

NICOSIA, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — A general strike was called today in the rightist dominated sector of east Beirut in protest against the entry of an armoured Arab peace-keeping force of about 700 soldiers.

The troops occupied three barracks belonging to the militia force of the National Liberal Party (PNL) led by former President Camille Chamoun.

The barracks, at Achrafieh, were occupied without incident. The "Voice of Lebanon" radio, controlled by the rightwing Phalangists, said the strike was "peaceful and spontaneous" against the entry of the Arab force on Sunday.

The radio, monitored here, said the strike was expected to last for 24 hours. School children were sent home and all shops, except for a few grocers, were shut.

The strike action was taken by rightist leaders after they met President Elias Sarkis, the radio said.

It was meanwhile announced in Beirut that the Arab peace force has entered the south Lebanese town of Nabatiyeh.

Eye witnesses said Nabatiyeh inhabitants welcomed the troops when they entered the town yesterday.

Official sources said a Lebanese internal security force entered

Tyre port in south Lebanon yesterday to maintain security there. Also in Beirut, the Lebanese Front -- which groups all rightist factions -- today published a statement pledging its determination to "liberate all occupied national territory and to work for the resettlement of Palestinians from Lebanon in Arab League member states."

The front statement published by the French-language daily Orient Le Jour summed up the decisions taken at a front colloquium held from Jan. 21-23 at a convent 15 kms east of Beirut at Brummana.

The colloquium held in camera was attended by 25 delegates. In a preface to the statement, the front recalled that "Christianity in Lebanon has always been free, sovereign, the safe-keeper of its heritage and master of its own destiny."

In a separate development from Beirut the daily newspaper As Safir said today that the transfer of some Palestinian refugee camps from their present locations in Lebanon was discussed at a meeting of the four-man committee in charge of stabilising security in Lebanon.

It quoted a member of the committee, Saudi Ambassador Ali Al Sha'ir, as saying that the question was still under discussion.

King's No. 2 man Saudi-Palestinian relations at a turning point

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (R). — Saudi Arabia's Riyadh Radio quoted Mr. Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), second man in the Fatah command organisation, as saying his discussions there represent a serious turning point in Saudi-Palestinian relations.

Abu Iyad, on a visit to Saudi Arabia, told Al Madinah newspaper in an interview, published today, that Saudi and Palestinian viewpoints on Arab-Palestinian issues were identical.

He said his discussions with Saudi officials, including Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, covered Saudi Arabia's attitude towards the projected Palestinian state, the Middle East settlement, and the situation in Lebanon.

"Political coordination" will dominate possible Jordan-PLO dialogue

AMMAN, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — A proposed dialogue between Jordan and Palestinian leaders "will be confined to possible political coordination and relations between Jordan and a future Palestinian state," reliable sources said yesterday.

Commenting on a decision by Palestinian leadership to open talks with Jordan, and on the basis of Rabat conference resolutions, the sources said any military discussions between the two would be premature.

There has been no official reaction to the development, although in Damascus last night a meeting of the Palestine National Council, but it has been

seen as a positive response to Jordanian initiatives.

Informal sources said Jordan was investigating ways of improving relations with the Palestinians immediately after Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said

last month there should be a for-link between Jordan and any new Palestinian state.

A report from Damascus, the Jordan News Agency (JNA) said

Monday that the Central Council discussed among other things the results of the meeting which took place here between King Hussein and the Palestinian delegation headed by Mr. Khaled Al Fahoum, Speaker of the Palestinian National Council (PNC).

Mr. Al Fahoum attended the 5th Session of the Arab Parliamentary Union which took place here last week.

The JNA report also said that the council discussed ways of strengthening the PLO's relations with Syria and decided on expanding membership of the PNC on the date and venue of the next PNC meeting. No further details were released.

Abu Mazen, a top PLO executive member, said in Damascus yesterday that "the PLO extends its hand to Jordan for the renewal of bilateral relations on the basis of the resolutions of the (1974) Rabat conference."

In an interview with the Syrian daily newspaper Al Thawra, Abu Mazen said that the PLO supports Jordan's move to join the Syrian-Egyptian alignment.

CAIRO, Jan. 24 (R). — Dr. Abdul Moneim Kaissouni, the Egyptian Deputy Premier for Economic Affairs, conferred today with a top official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on possible help for Egypt's ailing economy.

After two days of savage riots last week, the government rescinded a decision to increase prices of staple foods and fuel aimed at reducing the estimated 1977 budget deficit of 1.3 billion Egyptian pounds (about same sterling). The price rises were believed to be partly a deal with the IMF to correct the course of the Egyptian economy.

Dr. Kaissouni's meeting today was with Mr. John Gunter, in charge of the IMF's Middle East operations.

Egypt has been negotiating with the IMF for loans to overcome its acute economic difficulties. But the fund was reported to be insisting that Egypt should reduce expenditure by cancelling subsidies on various goods.

Last week's planned increases in the price of sugar, rice, petrol, and cooking gas and other items were part of the drive not only to cut the budget deficit but also the balance of payments shortfall.

Dr. Kaissouni is also having

talks with a World Bank delegation.

In an attempt to attract badly needed hard currency for investment, Egypt is planning to exempt foreign capital from taxes for five to eight years, and to allow foreign investor to transfer profits at an incentive exchange rate about 40 per cent over the official rate of foreign currency to the Egyptian pound informed sources said.

Dr. Kaissouni is also meeting Qatar Finance and Petroleum Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Khalifa Al Thani, who arrived yesterday to discuss what his country could do to help Egypt.

Egypt is leaning heavily on Arab oil countries for financial assistance and Saudi Arabia has been the major contributor.

A consultative group has been formed by the World Bank to ensure that Egypt's financial needs for development are met and to offset the deficit, the Middle East News Agency reported.

The group comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United States, Japan, Iran and some Western European countries.

The group is expected to meet in Paris next April, the News Agency said.

President Anwar Sadat is rep-

orted by the semi-official press to have said that, despite last week's riots which left 79 dead and about 800 injured, there would be no going back on political and economic liberalisation measures.

But the president declared that demonstrations would be banned. The government blamed Communist agitators of being behind the riots.

Investigations today continued into the ringleaders of the riots, and the papers said indictments would be announced within a few days.

Mr. Mussa Sabri, Board Chairman of the mass-circulation Cairo daily Al Akhbar, today attacked the Soviet Union, whose newspapers, he said, applauded last week's riots "exactly like Israel's newspapers."

(Moscow has vehemently denied the Soviet Union was behind the riots.)

But Cairo's leftist magazine Rose Al Youssef described the government's accusation that the Communists were instigators of the riots as a "dangerous game and an attempt to start a new fire."

In a lengthy article, the magazine yesterday blamed the government for increasing the prices of several commodities, which sparked off the troubles.

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Ducks and geese

The announcement in Salisbury yesterday by Mr. Ivor Richard that the white minority government of Rhodesia Premier Ian Smith had totally rejected Mr. Richard's latest proposals on the state's constitutional crisis is grim news indeed. It is even more dangerous because it follows the weekend parcel bomb killing in Lusaka of Rhodesian guerrilla leader Jason Moyo, and it will no doubt set the stage for rough times ahead for all the people of Rhodesia.

From Mr. Richard's announcement in Salisbury yesterday, it appears that the Geneva conference which he chairs is very much the "dead duck" that Mr. Smith called it last week. The British have taken the proper attitude that their role in the Geneva conference is simply one of trying to assist in achieving an honourable settlement that would lead to majority rule and independence for Rhodesia. Mr. Richard's personal role during his latest two-week shuttle has been, as he says, one of trying to "bridge the gap", a process that could have led hopeful people to expect the guerrilla war to cool off while honest men were trying to strike a workable compromise between Rhodesia's warring parties. That possibility now appears distant, if not completely out of the question.

Mr. Richard said that the British would not reconvene the Geneva conference just so that the various parties could sit around and look at each other. If the alternative to this is an intensification of the guerrilla war, and thus a hardening attitude and a greater defensive resort to arms by the Smith regime, perhaps there is some logic to having everyone sit around at Geneva and look at each other. While the latest Smith rejection by itself may have left the door open to such an exercise in procrastination and gaining time in Geneva, the concurrent assassination of Mr. Moyo last week makes it unlikely that this option is open any more.

The brutal likelihood now is that the gulf between the two sides will widen before it narrows, that things will get worse before they get better. Rhodesia's white minority rulers are driving themselves into a corner from where they can expect little help from anyone. They should heed the advice of Mr. Richard that the British are anxious to bring Rhodesia's rulers peacefully out of their isolation. With the active participation and support of the British and the Americans, the transition to majority rule in Rhodesia can be accomplished peacefully and in a manner that will allow the white Rhodesians to enjoy a good and just life in the country. Without the intermediary efforts of the British, and the moral and material backing the Americans are obviously intent on providing, Mr. Smith will only intensify the process by which the Rhodesian question will be settled by the gun. If he thinks the Geneva conference is a dead duck, he may well ponder whether his actions are not bringing closer the prospect of he and his followers also becoming cooked geese.

JVC to start water housing projects soon

AMMAN (JNA). — The Jordan Valley Commission JVC has deposited JD 139,000 at the Housing Bank for financing housing projects in the valley.

This payment is the first instalment of the ten million German marks which will be paid by the German Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau to finance housing projects in the Jordan Valley under the agreement signed between the government and the bank last month.

In the meantime the JVC has invited bids for the implementation of the drinking water project for the southern Ghors. Work on this project will be started within the next three months.

The villages of Karameh, Southern, Ghor Nimeen, Al Rawdah, and Al Kafraim will be supplied with drinking water by this project from the wells of Wadi Jari'a.

which lies to the east of southern Shouneh.

The cost of this project is estimated at JD 2 million, of which the German government will pay JD 500,000, under the agreement signed between the Jordanian government and the German Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau last month.

Mr. Badran, was addressing a number of officials from the private sector at the Central Bank to brief them on the policy and aims of the coming stage.

"The government will continue its present policy of supporting and encouraging the private sector in all its economic activities," Mr. Badran said, "since that sector has proved its capability and efficiency through its vital contribution in the five year development plan."

National Notes

● AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Monday delegated the Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo, Zouqan Al Hindawi to call on the Arab League's Secretary General, Mahmoud Riad and convey to him His Majesty's wishes for a speedy recovery from injuries he received in a car accident recently.

● Amman. — Her Highness Princess Basma, Monday paid a visit to the University of Jordan where she was received by its President, Dr. Isbaq Al Farhan and his two assistants for academic and administrative affairs.

● AMMAN. — The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hassan Ibrahim Monday received in his office a delegation from the French Somali Coast Liberation Front presently on a visit to Jordan. Mr. Ibrahim also received the Romanian ambassador in Amman.

● AMMAN. — The Saudi, Kuwaiti and the Arab Gulf Airlines have decided to join the Arab Wings Company. The Arab wings is a Jordanian air corporation which runs urgent flights to all parts of the world.

● IREBID. — The President of the Yarmouk University, Dr. Adnan Badran has stated that the prime minister decided that the Royal Scientific Society should take over functions of the Jordanian Scientific Research Council which was recently dissolved, in coordination between the Yarmouk and Jordan Universities.

AMMAN (JNA). — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Monday said that his Government will work to establish stability and economic prosperity in Jordan.

On the country's general budget, Mr. Badran said that its promoters had taken care to decrease the deficit for 1977 by ensuring appropriate revenues to cover all expected expenditures.

"The tax policy has been thoroughly discussed by pertinent authorities," he said, "and the government is aware of the economic changes this policy should take into account."

"The country's balance of payment is stable and positive as foreign and Arab investments continue to come to Jordan due to the confidence which the Jordanian economy has succeeded to inspire

Jordan, Belgium start economic, trade talks

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan and Belgium Monday started economic and trade discussions here at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, where they reviewed means to increase bilateral cooperation.

The Belgian team expressed its government's desire to share in a number of the present Jordanian industries and others intended to be set up within the five-year development plan. Belgium's purchase of Jordanian phosphate was also discussed. The Belgian delegation will visit the Wadi Araba area within the next two days to look into the copper mining sites there. It will also visit a number of Jordanian industries in which Belgium will participate.

Jordan was represented at the talks by a team comprising the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of

Industry and Commerce, Dr. Hassan Dabbas and the President of the National Planning Council, Dr. Hanna Odeh. For Belgium there was a number of top financiers and businessmen headed by former minister of economy and development, Mr. Cheyven another meeting will be held next Thursday.

What's Going On

A film entitled "The Motor Car." 6:30 p.m. at the British Council, Jabal Amman.

The Goethe Institute presents a film entitled "Jagd auf Lutz," 4:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute, Jabal Amman.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive if Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.S. dollar	333.0	335.0
U.K. sterling	573.0	579.0
German mark	139.0	139.4
French franc	67.2	67.5
Swiss franc	133.4	133.8
Italian lira		
(for every 100)	37.9	38.1
Syrian pound	82.6	82.9
Lebanese pound	112.7	113.4
Saudi riyal	94.7	95.0
Iraqi dinar	945.0	952.0
Kuwaiti dinar	115.8.0	1162.0
UAE dirham	83.5	84.0
Libyan dinar	745.0	760.0
Egyptian pound	468.0	478.0

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Prime Minister Mudar Badran (second from top right) addresses private sector officials at the Central Bank Monday. Central Bank Governor, Dr. Mohammad Said Nabulsi is on his right and Minister of Finance, Mr. Mohammad Dabbas is on his left.

Badran briefs private sector on Government economic policy

in these investors," Mr. Badran added.

On the progress achieved at the Aqaba port Mr. Badran said the efficiency of the administrative and technical bodies there have witnessed a great progress after the new measures adopted by the government.

"New storage lots with a total area of 160 dunums are being prepared and these will solve 85 per cent of the storage problem in the port," Mr. Badran hoped that with the completion of the four new berths within a period of two years the port of Aqaba will become an important regional port.

On the betterment of the conditions of the government employees Mr. Badran said that the employees' shop has been established to compensate employees in

the low income bracket for the increase in the cost of living, and that its establishment does not affect the private sector nor does it mean that the government has assumed an activity allotted to the private sector.

Speaking of the unified allowances system recently enacted Mr. Badran said, "that with that system, which is to cost the country an additional JD 12.5 million the government has achieved a twofold aim; provide 12,500 employees' shop has been established, and to raise the average salaries of government employees to meet the increase of prices in recent years."

"The government will build a number of silos to store grains in addition to cold stores in Amman and Aqaba for meat storage."

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ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian newspapers and one Kuwaiti daily Monday dealt with various topics related to the Middle East.

AL RA'I suggests that following the Damascus resolution, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides ought to spell out clearly their idea of the proposed dialogue - its broad outlines, means and end.

The paper thinks the decision of the Palestinian Central Council in Damascus to open a dialogue with a Jordanian and a Kuwaiti Jordan indicates a united, reasonable attitude on the part of the Palestinian organisations. It is also a healthy phenomenon pointing

ing to an understanding of the necessity for practical action and the reality of the struggle.

Al Ra'i continues: "Any serious Palestinian action cannot ignore, minimise or find any alternative for the Jordanian role. As events of the past years have proved, Jordan, in spite of discouraging circumstances, is the only country which has never lost faith in its role and which has continued to shoulder its responsibilities with vigour, solidity and clarity."

A Jordanian and a Kuwaiti newspaper Monday gave different views on the recent disturbances in Egypt over price increases.

AL DUSTOUR says that what happened in Egypt a few days ago was an alarm bell which ought to be heard by the whole Arab nation, especially the rich states, so that they finally understand that steadfastness is in reality economic and social, not just military and political.

The paper adds that Egypt's economic tragedy "is a shameful stain on the Arab money accumulated abroad that afflicts the conscience of every Arab."

What is required now is not merely "crumbs of bread" thrown to Egypt in the form of a loan or a grant. Frozen Arab money should quickly find its way to Egypt.

The Arabs must all understand that they cannot have security and stability without Egypt. They should realise that by helping Egypt they would be fulfilling a sacred duty to the country which has never failed them and which has always been, and still is, their true supporter.

AL RA'I AL AAM of Kuwait, on the other hand, says the Egyptian media might be trying to scare the Arab oil states into providing more aid to Egypt by exaggerating the role of the communists in last week's riots.

"Why does Cairo invent this communist monster for us every time?" the paper asks.

It also asks whether the communists really have "such great power" in Egypt, and says the media there has "attributed to them capabilities which we do not believe they possess."

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INVITATION FOR TENDERS

H4-IRAQI BORDER HIGHWAY

The Ministry of Public Works of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan invites contractors to submit tenders for the construction, widening and completion of H4-Iraqi border highway.

The highway is approximately 70 kms long.

The construction is expected to extend over 25 months. Quantities of major items of work involved are approximately as follows:

Earthworks	350 000 cubic meter
Base courses	235 000 cubic meter
Hot Bituminous concrete	1 045 000 square meter

Interested 1st class Jordanian contractors and/or other qualified International contractors may obtain a complete set of tender documents at an unrefundable cost of JD 50 from Tendering Section, Ministry of Public Works, Amman, Jordan.

Prequalification for bidders shall be made on Feb. 19, 1977 prior to the opening of tenders.

Therefore interested bidders are requested to respond by:

1. Submit to the Ministry of Public Works, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan before Feb. 19, 1977 enough information about their previous experience in similar works, financial standing, staff and work plant available and any intended association in a separate sealed envelope marked (1) PREQUALIFICATION.
2. Submit priced Tender Documents to the Ministry of Public Works, not later than 10 a.m. local time on Feb. 23, 1977, enclosed in a separate sealed envelope marked (2) TENDER with the name of the tenderer on the back of the envelope.

Tenders of unqualified bidders will not be opened.

Chief of Tender Committee
of the
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Carter presides over new cabinet's first meeting

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, (R). — President Jimmy Carter presided yesterday at the swearing-in of eight members of his cabinet and vowed to carry out his campaign pledge that they would never be undercut by his White House staff.

"There will never be an instance while I am president when members of the White House staff dominate or act in a superior position to members of our cabinet," Mr. Carter said at the oath-taking ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

His pledge was a reaction to complaints, made most conspicuously during the administration of former President Richard Nixon, that the White House staff acted as a palace guard, blocking direct communication between the president and his cabinet.

In addition, former Secretary of State William Rogers was notoriously undercut, from 1969 to 1973, by then-White House special assistant Henry Kissinger, who took direct control of foreign affairs himself.

The eight cabinet members sworn today by Chief Justice Warren Burger were: Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Secretary of the Treasury Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of Defence Harold Brown, Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland, Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Patricia Harris and Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams.

The oath of office was also administered to four sub-cabinet level officials: Mr. Bert Lance, who will head the Office of Management and Budget, Mr. Charles Schultze, head of the Council of Economic Advisers, Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, and Mr. James Schlesinger, who is joining the Carter administration as a Special Assistant for Energy but will be raised to a cabinet post later.

Others await their positions to be confirmed by the Senate. They are: Attorney General-designate Griffin Bell, Labour Secretary-

designate Ray Marshall and Mr. Joseph Califano, designated as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

"The secretaries will run their departments," Mr. Carter said. "This is the way it ought to be."

"It puts a heavy responsibility on me because it is a departure from our previous policy. It also puts a heavy responsibility on them."

Mr. Carter said that when his cabinet members received a directive from the White House staff, it will have come directly from him, not from some one on the White House staff trying to usurp the authority of the department involved.

The president noted that Mr. Brown, in addition to heading the Pentagon, would serve as his chief science adviser. He said Mrs. Kreps, who attended a National Security Council meeting Saturday, was believed to have been the first woman ever to have done so as a full participant.

And he described Mr. Brzezinski as a man who had "caused a great deal of consternation among the typesetters of this country." Mr. Carter said he couldn't himself spell Mr. Brzezinski's name.

LIBERAL TRENDS FOR U.S. FOREIGN TRADE POLICY FORECAST

Although the new United States administration took over less than a week ago, cabinet members are already forecasting major liberal trends in U.S. Foreign trade policy.

This policy will be coupled to clearly spelled-out requests to West Germany and Japan to apply similar measures to get the lagging world economy moving ahead again.

In an interview in the Wall Street Journal this week, the new Treasury Secretary, Michael Blumenthal, said he hoped Bonn and Tokyo would understand the need for parallel measures to those which President Jimmy Carter is presenting to Congress to stimulate the economies of the Western countries. And Vice President Walter Mondale is certainly raising the issue during his current trip to Europe and Japan.

Mr. Mondale is not an economist but he will know how to explain the Carter administration's concern over a world economy which, through its lack of dynamism, has failed, as had been expected, to gradually end the recession this year.

West Germany, in fact, seems

to be preparing a public works programme with this aim in view.

The United States government last year repeated accused Tokyo of manipulating the yen exchange rate in order to expand Japanese exports. Charges cooled later in the year as the Japanese government allowed the rate of exchange to rise.

Treasury Secretary Blumenthal stressed this week that the Carter administration, like the Ford

administration, is in favour of a floating exchange rate. But governments do not respect the rules of the game. He did not say whether he felt some governments fail to do so.

Mr. Blumenthal made it clear, soon after his nomination, that he was not worried over the United States unfavourable balance of trade which topped the \$5,000 million mark last year.



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Sudan pushes private sector to develop much-ignored south

When Jaafar Nimeiri seized power in the Sudan in 1969 he took over the big foreign companies operating in his country and established links with Moscow. Since then he has overturned that policy and now welcomes foreign investment and skills. The recent inauguration of the big Kenana sugar project is an illustration of the fruits of Nimeiri's economic re-orientation.

KHARTOUM (Gemini) -- There was an intriguing duality at the recent inauguration of the Kenana sugar project, the largest in Africa and the third largest in the world.

At one level it was the conventional opening ceremony. President Nimeiri said a few words, the local governor and chairman of the sugar company had much to say, and some of the overseas visitors under the awning began to wilt.

The workers, who knew their place in the sun, showed greater fortitude. Then followed a hot and dusty tour of the canal and pumping stations which will siphon off the Nile to irrigate an estate the size of Greater London.

It should help to make the 16 million inordinately sweet-toothed Sudanese self-sufficient in their favourite commodity by 1980. In time, half Kenana's output will be exported to the Middle East.

At this stage there was not much to see: cane was growing in a pilot scheme, and the air-conditioned staff housing was comfortably furnished. Yet it was all curiously impressive, perhaps because of the vast emptiness and its impending transformation.

What was equally impressive was the way they preserved the technical character of the occasion while at the same time staging a political rally. The opportunity was clearly too good to miss. Kenana is symbolic of the new order in the Sudan and President Nimeiri's conversion to a mixed economy.

When he seized power in a bloodless coup in 1969 he seized the big foreign companies and established close links with Moscow. Then came the abortive 1971 coup staged by local communists, who literally had Nimeiri by the throat at one point. He smartly showed Russia the door and left it open for the West to return.

In other words, he stood his old policy on its head. Henceforth, Sudan would encourage foreign investment and skills. But confi-

Kenana was anathema to them, and it was Kenana, in fact, which finally provoked London's most dramatic boardroom row. Rowland won the day -- and proceeded with his visionary Sudanese project. Thus for this most controversial and enigmatic of entrepreneurs as for one of Africa's toughest and shrewdest president, Kenana's inauguration was a matter of immense personal satisfaction.

Kenana is the largest joint venture undertaken by the Sudanese, but its investment line-up is characteristic of many other developments. The Sudanese government has a 40 per cent stake, the Kuwaiti government 23 per cent, the Sudan Development Corporation 10 per cent, the Arab Investment Company 17 per cent, Lonrho 5.5 per cent, Gulf Fisheries 2.25 per cent and Nisho-Iwai of Japan, 2.25 per cent. Saudi Arabia may well buy into Kenana, possibly taking a slice of the Kuwaiti holding.

Loans have been raised from the Sudanese government, the Arab Investment Company, and the Kuwaiti government, and export credits from Austria, Britain, France and Japan. Production is scheduled to start in November 1978, with the refinery -- the world's largest -- producing an initial 100,000 tonnes. Its potential is an annual one million. Lonrho, with its sugar expertise acquired in Malawi and the Ivory Coast, has the management contract.

Too much, of course, should not be read into any single project. Yet Kenana illustrates directly and indirectly Khartoum's new political and economic motivation. Kenana, for example, is Kuwait's largest single agricultural investment. On a much broader front, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development is to

provide £2.2 billion to help transform the Sudan into the "bread basket" of the Middle East.

It is no idle dream. Some 17 million acres are at present cultivated. The plains of central Sudan alone have about 200 million acres awaiting the plough -- and water and infrastructure -- and there are another 100 million acres untapped in other regions.

Add to these Arab economic affinities, closer political ties with Egypt and America and the West in general, a deepening distrust of the Soviet Union and neighbouring Libya (President Nimeiri accused Muammar Qadhafi of masterminding and servicing the abortive July coup) and the consequent U.S. arms programme, and, finally, a quiet but warm relationship with China, then the external character of Africa's largest country becomes unmistakably clear.

What is less well-defined is the domestic consequences of Nimeiri's pragmatic policies. It follows that among the business community in Khartoum there is strong support for the fresh start Nimeiri has made in unshackling the local entrepreneur as well as the overseas investor.

At the same time, Sudan is riven by political and sectarian rivalries which made it virtually ungovernable in the year following independence in 1956 and which provoked the army's first intervention two years later.

Nimeiri's greatest achievement was ending the 17-year civil war between the African southern half of the country and the Arab north. It was not a popular peace in the north insofar as its consolidation required and still requires an immense diversion of scarce resources to the "black" south. The Arabs, disdainful of the Africans, of their loyalty to Nimeiri, deeply resented, as they saw it, the neglect of the north in favour of the south.

And this is where we come back to Kenana's domestic importance. It is situated in an impoverished corner of the White Nile Province, the home of the Ansars, a deeply religious and conservative people who have shown no great love for Nimeiri or his progressive policies: much of the unrest, the incessant plotting which had all but paralysed the Sudan stems from this area.

Thus the laying of the foundation stone for the Kenana refinery provided Nimeiri with a heaven-sent opportunity to demonstrate the totality of his development plans, that they embraced the north as well as south, that in this area alone Kenana has created 22,000 jobs.

It was not a question of easing unemployment: employment had simply not existed.

Nimeiri appealed for a fundamental change of attitude among his traditionalist audience, reminding them that development brought social and cultural as well as material advantages. If the response may have been a trifle muted, there is little doubt that the

message went home.

By way of a reminder, militants of the Sudan Socialist Union carried Arabic banners declaring "Nimeiri is the leader of the social and industrial revolution." The party activists accompanying Nimeiri on his tour of the estate were more in evidence than his military escort -- a sign of the times.

And if some may have objected

to the occasion being turned into a political rally, it should be remembered that Nimeiri is so embarked upon his election campaign for a second term as leader of this dynamic, if turbulent country where the fervour of nationalism is matched only by passion for Islam and a spirit of individualism. For a soldier, Nimeiri has been quick to see the dangers of regimentation.



Bangladeshi record producer to tape Quran in 33 tongues

LONDON, (R). -- The Quran, holy book of the world's 850 million Moslems, is to be translated into 33 languages in the form of long-playing records, a record producer said here recently.

Mohammad Iqbal Zakaria, a 28-year-old Bangladesh-born record producer and film distributor, has already completed the English, Bengali, Urdu and French versions which go on sale in Britain, the United States and France at the end of this month.

The double albums will have the chanting of the Arabic verses from the Quran interspersed with translations in the listener's own language.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)	16:30 Easy listening
7:00 Morning melodies	17:00 Good vibrations (repeat)
7:30 News	17:30 Pop session
7:40 News report	18:00 News summary
8:00 Sign off	18:05 Pop session
12:00 Pop session	18:15 Catch the words
13:00 News summary	18:30 My kind of music (repeat)
13:05 Pop session	19:00 News
14:00 News	19:10 News reports
14:10 Radio magazine	19:30 Sign off
14:30 Arabs in history	
15:00 Concert hour	
16:00 Old favourites	

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	Al Wihda	
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Arrivals:	19:40 Beirut (MEA)
7:30 Baghdad (IA)	24:00 Rome (Alitalia)
8:30 Bangkok, Bahrain	
8:40 Dubai, Abu Dhabi	8:00 Beirut
9:30 Kuwait (KAC)	8:30 Baghdad (IA)
10:40 Karachi, Kuwait (BA)	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
11:15 Beirut	10:15 Kuwait (KAC)
11:15 Aleppo, Damascus (SAA)	10:30 Cairo
12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA)	11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
14:10 Aqaba (SAA)	11:25 London (BA)
17:00 Cairo	12:00 Aqaba (SAA)
17:10 London	13:00 Athens (GA)
17:15 Paris, Rome	14:45 Damascus (SAA)
17:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt	19:00 Bahrain, Bangkok
18:10 Madrid, Athens	19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi
18:15 Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)	21:00 Jeddah
	22:55 Doha, Muscat
	01:15 Dubai (Alitalia)

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Fire headquarters	" 22090
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

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American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37009
Goethe Institute	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

BBC RADIO

05:00 News; 24 hours	15:15 Outlook
05:30 Sarah Ward	16:00 News; Commentary
05:45 The World Today	16:15 Lord Peter Wimsey: Clouds of Witness
06:00 News; Press Review	16:45 The World Today
06:30 Folk and Country	17:00 News
07:00 News; 24 hours	17:09 Books and Writers
07:30 Sarah Ward	17:30 Take One
07:45 A History of Food	17:45 Sports Round-up
08:00 News	18:00 News; News about Britain
08:15 Short Story	18:15 Radio Newsreel
08:30 Composer and Interpreter	18:30 Talkabout
09:00 News; U.K. Press Review	19:00 Outlook; News Summary
09:15 The World Today	19:42 Stock Market Report
09:30 Financial News	19:45 One Piano, Four Hands
09:45 Look Ahead	20:00 News; 24 hours
10:15 Ulster '77	20:30 The Pleasure's Yours
10:30 Comedy Playhouse	21:00 Business and Industry
11:00 News; News about Britain	21:15 Ulster '77
11:15 Origins of Industry	21:30 Farming World
11:30 Sports International	22:00 News; The World Today
12:00 Radio Newsreel	22:25 Financial News
12:15 The Pleasure's Yours	22:35 Aria
12:45 Sports Round-up	22:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News; 24 hours	23:00 News; Commentary
13:30 Giacomo Puccini	23:15 Nature Notebook
14:15 Report on Religion	23:30 Appointment with Fear
14:30 Talkabout	
15:00 Radio Newsreel	

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Channel 3 & 6	10:15 Arabic series
6:00 Quran	
6:05 Cartoons	
6:30 Walt Disney	
8:00 News in Arabic	
Channel 3	
7:30 Arabic series	
8:30 Arabic series	
9:20 Reportage	
	7:30 News in Hebrew
	7:45 Varieties
	8:30 The last of the haskets
	9:10 Rich man poor man
	10:00 News in English
	10:15 Hawaii 5-0

VOICE OF AMERICA

03:00 The Breakfast Show	
03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00 GMT: News	
06:30 Regional and Topical Reports, VOA Current News Summary, 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: An informal presentation of popular music with feature report and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest.	
17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary	
17:30 Dateline	
18:00 Special English. News, Feature: Science in the News, News Summary.	
18:30 Now Music USA	
19:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses.	
19:30 VOA Magazine, American, Science, Cultural Letters.	
20:00 Special English. News.	
20:15 Music USA (Jazz).	
21:00 VOA World Report: Newsmakers' voices to correspondents' reports, background features, media comments, news analyses.	

محور العمل

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1979 The Chicago Tribune

Neither vulnerable. North leads.

NORTH
♠ 10 5 2
♥ A 10 8
♦ Q 9 7
♣ A J 2

EAST
♠ K Q 9 7 3
♥ A 10 8 4 3
♦ 6
♣ 10 9 8 6 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A A
♥ 9 8 3
♦ A K J 10 8 5 3
♣ K

The bidding:
North East South West
♠ 1 3 3 Pass
♥ Pass 4 Pass
♦ Pass Pass Pass
♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♣.

queen and ace of spades completed the first trick. Declarer then cashed the king of clubs, drew trumps in two rounds ending in dummy and discarded a spade on the ace of clubs. A club ruff completed the preliminary work.

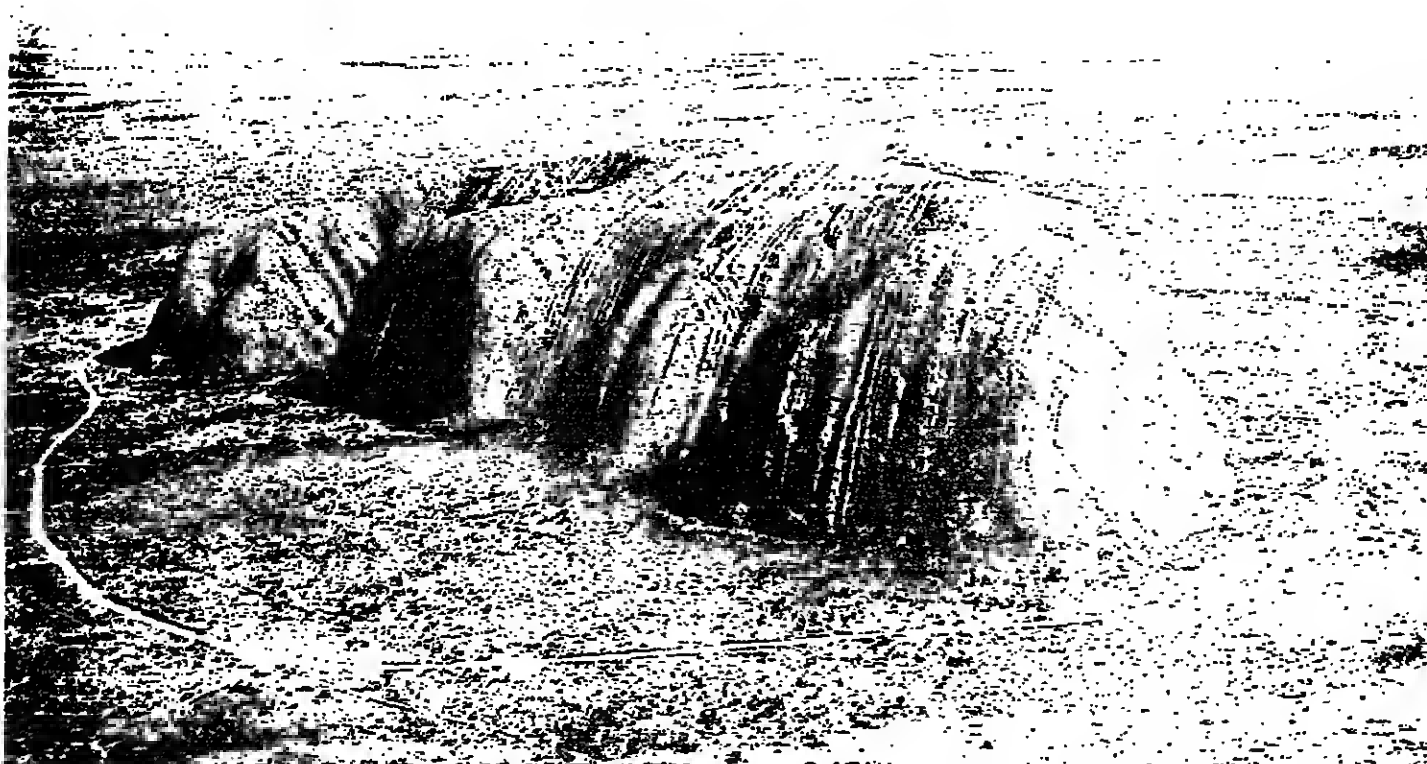
Now declarer led a cunning eight of hearts. West's mind must have been on some other matter, for he carelessly followed low. Declarer played low from dummy. East won the queen but was well and truly end-played.

If he led a heart, it would be into dummy's A-J tenace. A club would give a ruff and snuff. A spade was no better. If East returned the king of spades, declarer would ruff, enter dummy and discard his remaining heart loser on the jack of spades; if East led a low spade, declarer would discard his heart immediately and dummy's jack would win. The slam had to come home.

Note that declarer has no chance if West covers the eight of hearts with the ten. East wins dummy's jack with the queen, but now he can get out safely with a heart, and declarer must lose another heart trick. (Playing the king of hearts on the first lead would also defeat the slam.)

Double your winnings; double your skill with these tips on the right way to use DOUBLES for penalty and for takeout. For a copy, send \$1.50 to "Goren-Doubles," c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 259, Norwood, N.J. 07648. Make checks payable to NEWSPAPERBOOKS.)

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



ISOLATED: That's Ayer's Rock, a bizarre outcrop marooned in the barren heart of Australia.

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from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are apt to get into a big and unnecessary argument early unless you control your tongue when opposition arises. By so doing you will later have a very interesting opportunity to express your special talent and ability in an unusual manner.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Take care not to argue with a bigwig today, but go after personal aims with precision and get good results. Join with good friends later in the day and interesting things happen.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't try to force your way out of some limitation early or you have more trouble since later all changes and you win out. Listen to what intelligent advisers have to suggest. Follow best of these.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Steer clear of some annoying factor and then you can be happy with congenials. Plan how best to gain your most personal aims, goals. Make sure you do not argue with mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be grateful for what you have. Get finest abilities to the attention of bigwigs for advancement. Be precise in your efforts.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Give more thought to that responsibility ahead of you so you handle it properly. Later you can have a delightful time with a loved one. Your hunches are not apt to be accurate today so rely on your mature judgment.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try to help others with their problems and gain their favor. Show you are a humanitarian. Get back into the good graces of a loved one by some special thought, act.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A partner can be annoying during the day but keep silent and then later you know what was bothering him, her. Make sure you pay important bills. Home and hearth and best bet in evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Clear up some misunderstanding early and then go out later for amusements you like. Being affectionate with persons you like is wise. Handle a business matter wisely, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take a new tack where others are concerned and get along better, especially where those who have wanted to impose on you are concerned. Meet successful persons who can be of help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Listen carefully to what kin have to suggest and forget any prejudices you may have. Forget negative thinking. The aspects are fine for gaining important personal aims.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy on important outside activities and forget any anxieties you may have that could hold you back from progressing. Be more enthusiastic and you are more successful. Avoid a hypocrite.

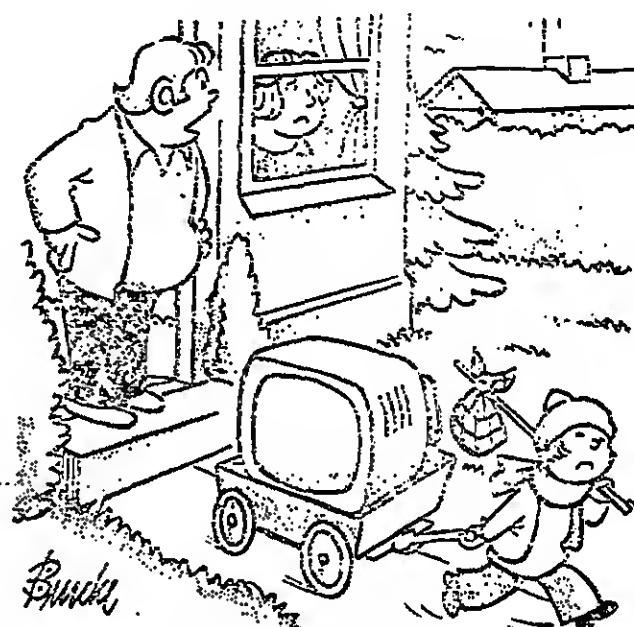
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Use new systems and improve your financial position quickly. Gain advice you need from a person who is most successful. Make evening a fine social one and be happy with congenials.

GRAFFITI



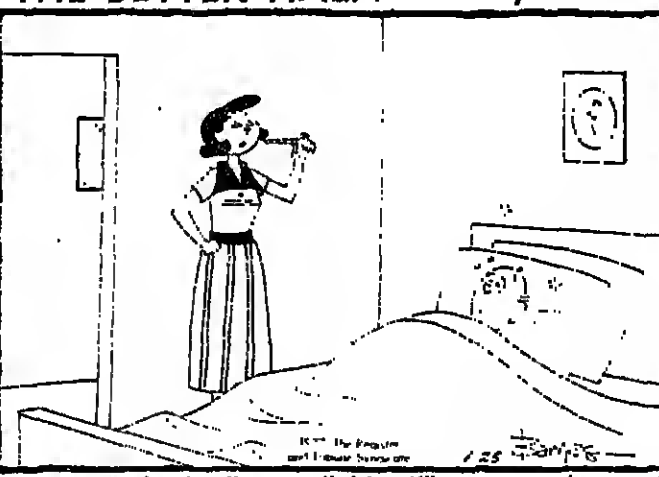
...HALLO!
IS THIS 67171-2-3-4?
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LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



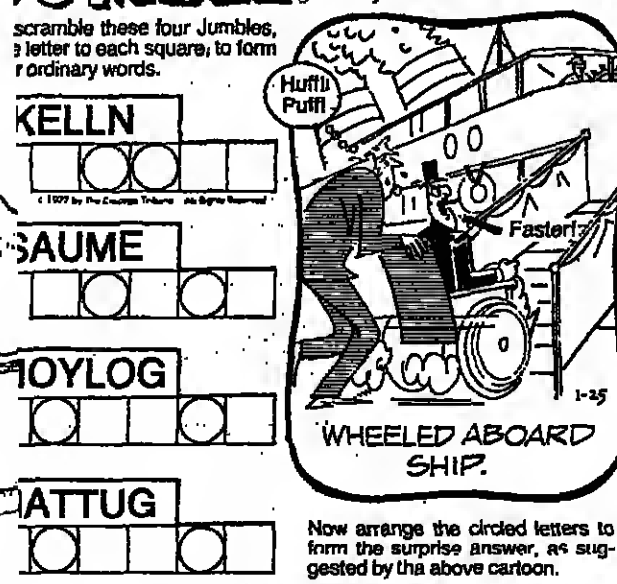
"I think he's really going this time."

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes



"With all the bodies available, I'll never understand why a self-respecting virus would set up residence in yours."

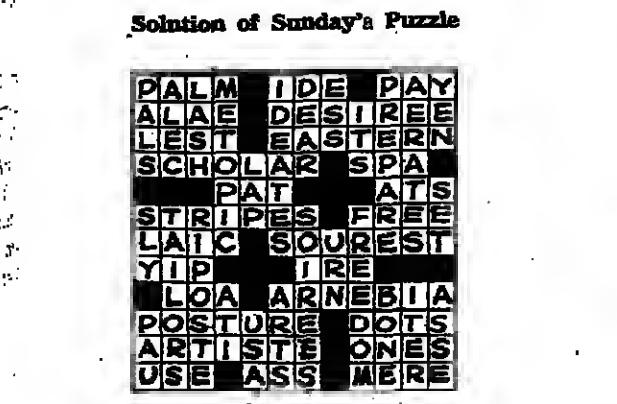
JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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RICH MAN POOR MAN:
CHAPTER FOUR

Tommy by getting the maid pregnant, brings trouble to himself, his father and the girl.

HAWAII 5-0:
NINE DRAGONS

McGarrett stalks Chinese agent to Hong Kong after he steals secret formula for poisonous gas.

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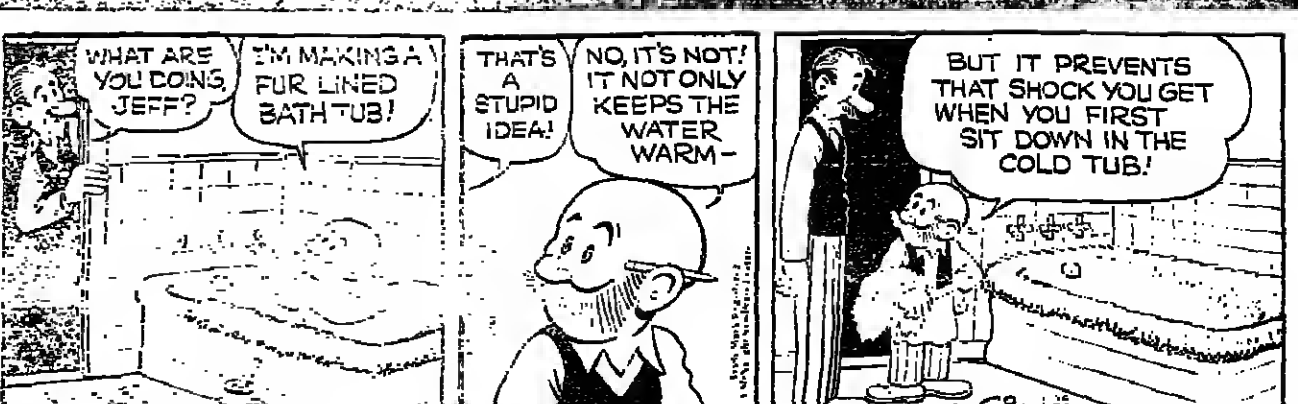
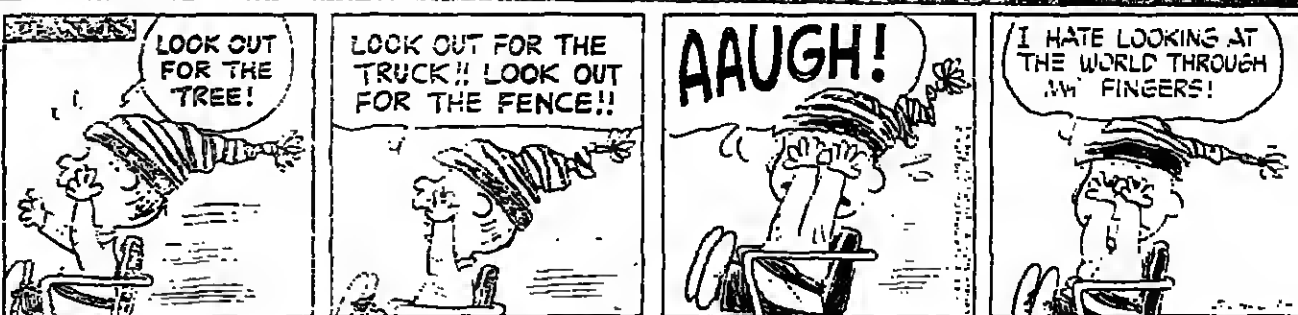
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U.S. to increase NATO share

Mondale says at start of world tour

BRUSSELS, Jan. 24 (Agencies). — The United States told its NATO partners today it was willing to increase its defence commitment to the Western alliance but it expected them to contribute to the limit of their individual abilities in return.

Vice President Walter Mondale transmitted the offer from President Carter to the NATO Council. Later tonight Mr. Mondale arrived in Bonn on the second stage of his tour of Western Europe and Japan.

Replying to a welcome from Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, he said he had come to strengthen personal contacts in order to strengthen the Western alliance and to discuss such common problems as energy, economics, East-West relations and the North-South dialogue.

Mr. Mondale begins his political talks in Bonn tomorrow afternoon with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. At the NATO meeting here, he said he was concerned about the Soviet troop build-up in Eastern Europe in the last few years.

At a news conference after the Council meeting, Mr. Mondale said Soviet military expansion had to be dealt with either by negotiation or by an "adequate response". The situation was "manageable if we act wisely."

He said the U.S. was willing to expand its contribution in two ways. It would fulfil pledges of modest increases in existing plans for NATO programmes. It was also pledged to provide further assistance in the context of a co-ordinated approach to which other NATO members also contributed.

Mr. Mondale would not specify the additional support but did tell a questioner he did not expect additional U.S. troops to be sent to Europe.

He also said President Carter's election campaign pledges to trim waste from the U.S. defence budget could be accomplished "without cutting any muscle" from NATO.

Mr. Mondale said the United States agreed with its Common Market partners that world tariff cutting negotiations in Geneva should be resumed as quickly as possible.

He said the U.S. hoped to iron out differences that have stalled the talks. There was, he added, strong approval of the U.S. view that economic recovery in individual countries and resumption of the trade talks would help to avoid the risk of a wave of protectionism.

Besides his talks with the 15-member North Atlantic Council, Mr. Mondale met the Common Market Commission, Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans and Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoep.

The vice president stressed U.S. determination to improve relations with the Common Market during his meeting with Mr. Tindemans.

Leadership of the Western world, he said, was a job to be shared by nations on both sides of the Atlantic.

He told Mr. Tindemans that the U.S. favoured a separate seat for the nine at a projected economic summit meeting expected to be held around June.

Gunmen kidnap another senior Spanish official

MADRID, Jan. 24 (R). — Gunmen abducted a senior army general today in Spain's second major kidnapping in six weeks, as riot police clashed with leftwing demonstrators in the city centre.

A group of men kidnapped Lt. Gen. Emilio Villaescusa Quilis, 64-year-old President of the Supreme Council of Military Justice, the army's equivalent of the supreme court, outside his home.

Opposition politicians said the kidnapping could provoke the armed forces into abandoning their neutrality in Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy.

Police sources said the kidnappers were thought to be members of the same extreme leftwing group that abducted the President of Spain's Advisory Council of State, Senor Antonio Maria de Oriol y Urquijo, on Dec. 11.

The guerrillas, calling themselves the October First Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups (GRAPO), last week threatened to strike another "major blow" unless the government agreed to free political prisoners in exchange for Senor Oriol.

In Madrid's shopping district, riot police firing tear gas dispersed several hundred demonstrators protesting against the death of a student yesterday during a violent demonstration for the release of political prisoners.

The civil governor's office said the youth was shot by two men who were identified as members of an extreme rightwing group called "guerrillas of Christ the King."

AFP reported that a 20-year-old woman student today died of wounds suffered in the demonstrations here today.

Gen. Villaescusa, former army chief of staff and commander of the Madrid military region, was kidnapped as he left his home for his office.

Eyewitnesses said Gen. Villaescusa's official chauffeur-driven limousine was parked outside his home when two other cars drew up — one in front and one behind. There were two men wearing army uniforms in the first car and two others in the second vehicle.

Four other men walked up to the gate and surrounded Gen. Villaescusa as he strolled out. They forced him into his own car, together with the driver, and the three cars drove off.

The general's car was found abandoned in a Madrid suburb. The chauffeur had been gagged with band-aid and warned not to move for half an hour.

Israeli government proposes 8% cut on defence spending

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24, (R). — The government has proposed an apparent cut in defence spending for the first time in Israel's history, in a draft budget for 1977-78 presented to the Knesset today.

The budget allocated just over 41.6 billion Israeli pounds (about \$4.6 billion) for defence, compared with over 34.6 billion Israeli pounds (about \$3.8 billion) last year.

Mr. Moshe Zabar, the former Bank of Israel governor, told reporters that the figures represented a cut of about eight per cent in real terms, taking into account Israel's inflation, rising prices abroad and the decreasing value of local currency.

Observers noted that despite the purchase of highly expensive warplanes abroad, Israel was now producing at home a great deal of military equipment, including aircraft.

Presenting the 122.5 billion Israeli pounds (about \$13.6 billion) budget, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz said there would be no cut in Israeli taxes, which are among the highest in the world.

Mr. Rabinowitz said that inflation in 1976 had resulted in price rises of 38 per cent, a figure that the government hopes to hold down to 25 per cent this year.

Local experts say that government plans to combat inflation are highly optimistic since the draft budget already contains a built-in deficit of five billion Israeli pounds (about \$555 million).

The experts also say the government is basing much of its figures on expected income from internal bond sales with predictions that may be unrealistic.

The vote on the first reading of the 1977 budget will take place next week and is expected to run into stiff opposition in the Knesset.

There was speculation that a

substitute short-term temporary budget might have to be adopted until after the general election, scheduled for May 17.

The draft budget will attempt to reduce investment while guaranteeing services, maintaining full employment and protecting the real-term income of the lowest-paid members of Israeli society.

Mr. Rabinowitz said the government would continue to support exports as a means of solving the balance of payments problem in the long term. The current accounts balance of payments deficit was 3.3 billion Israeli pounds (about \$360 million) last year.

Levies on imports were contin-

uing to rise and Mr. Rabinowitz said the import rate was now 1 Israeli pound to the dollar compared to 8.7 Israeli pounds to 1 American currency at this time last year.

Mr. Rabinowitz forecast Unit States economic and military aid to Israel as totalling \$2.4 billion compared with \$2 billion in last fiscal year. The projected aid accounts for \$1.5 billion about half in grants and the rest in long-term credit.

Israeli bonds sales campaign carried out among Jewish communities and Israeli "sympathisers" abroad are expected to net \$2 million.

Teng may be rehabilitated soon as top deputy of Chairman Hua

By Rene Flipo

PEKING, Jan. 24 (AFP) — Former Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping could be named shortly as first vice chairman of the Central Committee, in other words the top deputy of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng in the hierarchy of the Chinese Communist Party.

That is the latest news, according to various indications over the past few days from different sources in Peking, about the political future of the ex-vice premier who was fired last April for "right deviationism".

However striking the report may sound, it is absolutely unofficial.

It has not received any kind of confirmation and originally came from a low-level Chinese source. Nonetheless, it is worth reporting clear are at what time and given the importance of the post which post.

for which Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping said to be in line.

But before reaching political conclusions, official confirmation is necessary and many diplomats in Peking are simply noting with interest this report which follows many others — all of them unfounded — concerning the rise of Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping.

After the poster campaign, his favour in Peking at the beginning of this month, diplomats the capital are still waiting for official answer to the question decisions which have appeared been taken to resolve the Teng problem.

There is little doubt at present in diplomatic circles here that former vice premier will make comeback on the political scene from a low-level Chinese source. The only factors that remain unclear are at what time and given the importance of the post which post.

Peled: Peace treaty must be signed with Palestinians

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (AFP). — Retired Gen. Matityahu Peled, emphasised here today that "Israel must accept dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation" (PLO) and that "Palestinians must accept the existence of the state of Israel."

Gen. Peled, Chairman of the Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, an unofficial body, will go to the United States on Thursday for a month during which he will promote the aims of the movement.

He does not exclude the possibility of further talks with PLO officials, continuing those he says have already been held in Paris. Talks have also been held in the U.S., he added.

But he said "It is preferable that Israeli-Palestinian talks are held in the greatest secret, in a place nobody expects."

Allon says Egyptian internal situation may lead to some "foreign adventurism"

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Jan. 24 (R). — Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said yesterday that Egypt's serious economic situation, which culminated in riots last week, might lead President Anwar Sadat to embark on foreign adventurism.

Mr. Allon was presenting a political review to the cabinet at its weekly session here.

A cabinet communiqué said the foreign minister discussed the forthcoming visits to the Middle East of U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. He also reviewed recent meetings between President Sadat and King Hussein.

Mr. Allon said the only way for Egypt to break what he termed the vicious circle of its social and economic problems was to abandon its "offensive policy" towards Israel in order to reduce its defence expenditure.

"Objectively, this is possible

because Israel has no offensive designs against Egypt," Mr. Allon said.

"But because of the internal contradictions in Egypt's policies there may be a hardening of Egyptian attitudes, in the hope that some world powers may be found who wish to save the present Egyptian regime at Israel's expense," he said.

Mr. Allon said the recent rioting in Egypt should show its government that a real political solution to the Middle East crisis the Geneva peace conference was the only alternative available.

"But it is still possible that Egyptians may try to find a way out of their social problems by adventurist policy. Only time will tell where Egypt is heading," said.

Cabinet sources said both Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Allon stressed the great importance they placed on the visit by Mr. Vance, who was coming to see things for himself, before the new U.S. administration formulated a policy over renewal of the Geneva peace conference in the Middle East.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

PARIS, Jan. 24 (AFP). — French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing today broke his silence on former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's challenge to the government's choice for the new post of mayor of Paris. Addressing French expatriates here, President Giscard condemned "personal rivalries" in French domestic politics and said that "division, ambition" were not in the country's best interests.

LONDON, Jan. 24 (AFP). — Visiting West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Prime Minister James Callaghan today urged the need for closer consultations among leading Western countries to meet the world economic crisis. Addressing a joint news conference after two days of talks here, the two leaders said the planned summit meeting of top industrial countries would form an appropriate forum for such consultations.

TUWAT, Jan. 24 (R). — The Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyassah said today the Soviet Union was proposing to set up a rival oil exporters organisation to OPEC which would bring together "progressive" oil exporting countries. Quoting "circles connected with the matter", the newspaper said that Algeria was the first to be approached among Arab states and Iraq and Libya were also expected to be asked to join the new organisation.

ROME, Jan. 24 (AFP). — Visiting Libyan head of state Muammar Qaddafi and Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema cancelled a planned up-country visit today and instead held more talks here in the capital.

LONDON, Jan. 24 (AFP). — Kurdish guerrillas, in renewed fighting with Iraqi troops, killed 120 soldiers and destroyed three helicopters and three trucks in two separate incidents last Dec. 16, according to a communiqué published here today by the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

SAKARTIA, Jan. 24 (R). — Iraqi Vice President Taha Mohieddin Ma'aruf arrived today for a three-day official visit to Indonesia. He called on President Suharto at the Merdeka Palace and held informal talks. Mr. Ma'aruf will leave Indonesia on Wednesday.

RAWALPINDI, Jan. 24 (R). — Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto today launched his Pakistan People's Party (PPP) manifesto for the general election in March, promising wide-ranging economic and social benefits and a stronger national defence if returned to power.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed lower Monday in reaction to profit-taking. Turnover was moderate and at 1500 the F.T. index was off 6.6 at 378.1. Government bonds came off lowest levels and finished with falls of 1/8 among longer maturities. Shorts were unchanged on balance having lost up to 1/8. The 1.5 billion dollar Euroloan secured by the U.K. Treasury was discounted, dealers said.

Industrial leaders lost up to 10p while banks eased between 5p and 12p as operators await base rate moves. Gold shares were narrowly mixed.

Tube Investments, Decca, Thorn, Hawker, Unilever and Metal Box lost between 5p and 10p while ICI, which was the most actively traded issue, finished 3p down after losing 7p earlier in the session.

Military court says it can continue trial of Levinger

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (R). — A military court in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank north of Jerusalem has ruled it was competent to continue its trial of a rabbi from Hebron for disobeying an army order.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, an extreme nationalist resident of the Kiryat Arba Jewish settlement near the Arab town of Hebron, had claimed the prayer meetings he had organised in an abandoned former Jewish house in Hebron was a political act.

He said he should therefore be tried by a civil court in Israel.

The three-man court said it would detail its reasons for continuing the trial when it handed down its judgement at the end of the hearings.

Prosecution witnesses gave evidence yesterday saying Rabbi Levinger and his followers were removed from the building and held a prayer meeting against express orders of the military governor.

The trial continues.

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